

### REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of all the claims now in the application (i.e. Claims 1-13 and 18-27) is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Initially, applicants reaffirm their election to pursue claims 1-13 and 18-27 as being directed to an apparatus shown in FIGS. 1-6. Applicant has cancelled the non-elected claims and reserves the right to pursue them in a divisional application.

The Examiner objected to claim 12 as reciting the limitation "an opening" which was also recited in claim 1 from which claim 12 depends. Applicant has amended claim 12 to overcome this rejection.

The Examiner then rejected claims 1, 3-4, 7-10, 13, 18 and 22 as being anticipated by *Sasse* (DE 299 22 792 U1) and claims 1-4, 6-13, 18, 20-22, 24, 26 and 27 as being anticipated by *Collito* (U.S. Patent No. 3,316,914). The Examiner considered that *Sasse* disclosed a device for holding a bearing liner being in the form of a substantially flat plate. The Examiner considered *Collito* to disclose a handling device included supports 10, 28, an opening 30 and a deformable rim 28. The Examiner did not give any patentable weight to the claim language relating to the claimed intended use of applicant's handling device.

It is submitted that neither of the prior art anticipatory references relied upon by the Examiner have a structure similar to that shown in FIGS. 1-6 of the application. In order to better distinguish over the prior art, applicant has amended the independent claims 1 and 18 to more clearly define the invention. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include that the support includes first and second planar portions which are pivotally connected and can be pivoted relative to one another from a position where the plane of the second portion is angled with respect to the plane of the first portion to a position where the planes parallel. Neither *Sasse* or *Collito* has planar portions which are pivotally connected and can be rotated with respect to one another from a position which is angled to a position where the first and second portions are parallel with this second portion overlying the bearing liner.

Likewise, claim 18 has been amended along the same lines to require that the retainer has a first and second portion where the second portion can be pivoted from a position parallel to the opening to a position angled with respect to the opening in the first portion. Thus, it is believed that the anticipation rejection over the two references cited by the Examiner have been overcome.

Furthermore, nothing in either *Sasse* or *Collito* teaches or suggests the structure shown in FIGS. 1-6 which allows the bearing to be held within the first portion and clamped in place by the pivotal movement of the second portion. With regard to the Examiner's rejection of various claims as being obvious over *Sasse* and *Collito*, neither of those references suggest the structure as set forth in independent claims 1 and 18 either alone or in combination.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: April 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Raymond W. Augustin

Registration No.: 28,588

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant